ELMWOOD CEMETERY

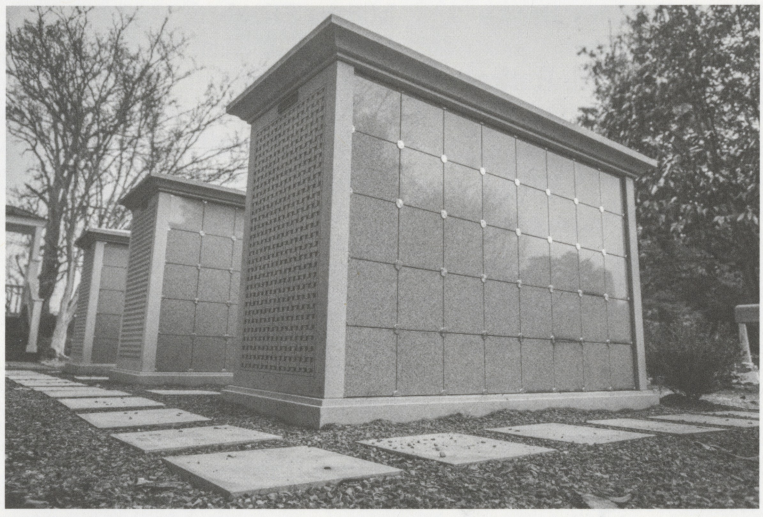
Memphis at rest since 1852.

Spring 2026

ELMWOOD ADDS NEW COLUMBARIUM LOCATION TO REFRESHED COTTAGE GARDEN

"Ashes to ashes, dust to dust.."
- Anglican Book of Common Prayer (1662)

Three new outdoor columbaria have been added to Elmwood Cemetery with enough niches for hundreds of interments.



What is a columbarium? A columbarium is a room or building with niches or compartments for funeral urns to be kept. The beautiful new columbaria are adjacent to the McCallum Garden, which has been refreshed with updated landscaping as part of the project. The new columbaria have been christened Magnolia, Dogwood, and Elm, after specimens found in Elmwood's award-winning arboretum.

The three new columbaria contain 240 niches, each of which can accommodate the ashes of one or two individuals. Prices start at $3,500 per niche (interment and engraving fees not included). In addition, there are four estate-style family benches, which can accommodate the ashes of four people each.

These new niches, just southeast of the historic Elmwood Cottage, expand upon our original offerings located outside the Lords Chapel: the Stokes Columbarium, installed at Elmwood in 2005, and the Oak, Maple, and Willow Columbaria, which were added in 2021. While the Stokes Columbarium has been full for some time, there are still a limited number of niches available in Oak, Maple, and Willow, with prices starting at $2,500.

As choices for final disposition continue to expand and evolve, the addition of columbaria such as these extend the life of the cemetery and add to its beauty. We also still have spaces available for both traditional and ashes burials throughout the cemetery.

Director of Family Services, Bob Barnett, is available to help you make the best choice for you and your family. He can explain pre-planning and financing options. Reserve your place in history; call 901-774-3212 to make an appointment with him today.

We wish to acknowledge, with gratitude, the following contributors to Elmwood Cemetery. These gifts were received August 1st, 2025 through December 31st, 2025.

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Morgan & Philip Zanone

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Idell Wade Adams
In memory of
The Lohmers & Wades

Janet & Warwick Aiken
In memory of
Marianne Sewell Aiken
Rev. Warwick Aiken Jr.

Richard Alcott
In memory of
Sally Banks

Kathleene Alston
In memory of
Oley Dooley
Myrtle Rush

Kim & Willy Bearden
In honor of
Jeanne Arthur
Dan Conaway
In honor of
Molly & Robert Gooch
In honor of
Carol & Will Leatherman
In honor of
Susan Stephenson
In honor of
Sheila & Neil Stringer

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In memory of
Tom T. Black

Margaret M. Brooks
In memory of
Louis Wayne Porter
In honor of
Elizabeth Moore

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Milton P. Brown

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In memory of
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Paul Trowbridge Gillespie Jr.

The Buckingham Trust
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LaUna Brubaker
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In honor of
Dan Conaway
In honor of
Elmwood's 173rd Anniversary
In memory of
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Susan Stephenson

Mayrene Dillard Buxton
In memory of
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In memory of
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In memory of
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Lafayette Davis Sr.
Harry Sinclair
Earnestine Coleman
Gladys Harris

Geraldine R. Davis
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Morgan Sentel Cochran

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Carol Downs
In memory of
The Sharpe & Elam Family

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Susan Stephenson

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In memory of
Anita Dugas

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Jimmie & Bill Farris

Jean Fisher
In memory of
John T. Fisher
Thomas Hartwell Fisher

Huger Foote
In memory of
Gwyn & Shelby Foote

Joseph Gatlin
In memory of
Lizzie Suiter

Molly & Robert Gooch
In memory of
Marie Duncan
In memory of
Walter Scott III
In memory of
The Walter Scott Family

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Lorin Hillman
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James Forbes Barton & Family

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In memory of
Susan E. Inman

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Marvin Miles
Edward Sharpe

Carol Jacks
In memory of
Jon R. Jacks

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In memory of
Wayne Lamar Jackson

Cary Jackson
In memory of
Clara & James Owen

Martha Jeffries
In memory of
Rubye & Odell Barnes

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Mary Ann Britton Johnson
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In memory of
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In memory of
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Fredrica Lake
In memory of
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In honor of
Dale Schaefer

Natalie D. Latham
In memory of
J. Davant Latham

Peggy Wilson Lawrence
In memory of
Elsie Pope Wilson

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In memory of
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In memory of
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In memory of
Caroline Pate
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Amy West
Steve West
Boyce Alexander Gooch
C. M. Gooch
Perle Alexander
James B. Alexander
T. A. Alexander

Gale Reeves
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Michael Richards

Ashley Remmers
In memory of
Fontaine B. Moore III

Valerie Richards
In memory of
Michael Richards

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Will Leatherman

William Roberts
In memory of
Gloria J. Roberts

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James M. Rowland
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Max Rose

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Christine & Cecil Nichols

Libby & Gene Seymour
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Mary Scruggs Gray

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In memory of
Harmon T. (Tommy) Sharp

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Creasie Grant
Bennie Shields

George Shirley
In memory of
Sarah Eason Winburn

Molly Sicuro
In memory of
Michael Sicuro

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In honor of
William Bearden

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Mary & Roy Simpson

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In memory of
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Lafayette Davis
Harry Sinclair
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Gwendolyn Thomas-Sudduth

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Irma & Wood Taylor Sr.

Julia Aguanno Taylor
In memory of
Roseanne Bonanno Aguanno Theobald

Eunice M. Tenet
In memory of
Wayne Jackson

Dr. Angela Owen Terry
In memory of
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Yvonne S. Thomas
In memory of
Kenneth Thomas

Betty Kate & Vance Thompson
In memory of
M.D. Thompson
Willie Ruth Thompson

Frances & Alex Thompson
In memory of
The three Minnas

Linda N. Tichenor
In memory of
Kittie D. Nowlin

Christine & Carroll Todd
In honor of
Ainslie & Hardy Todd
Nancy & Snowden Todd
Roberta & Steve Anderson
Lisa & Bayard Snowden

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In memory of
Martha & Tom Tong

Walter Tong
In memory of
Kathryn J. Tong

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In memory of
Calvin L. Taylor Sr.

Bettye D. Trammell
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Lucille Toles
William Dixon

Charles M. Traughber
In memory of
Lois M. DeBerry
Mary DeBerry

Edward True
In memory of
Elizabeth True

Mrs. Kenneth Austin Turner
In memory of
Judge Kenneth Austin Turner

Union Avenue Baptist Church Adult I Bible Study Class
In memory of
Robert Shannon

Virginia Valentine
In memory of
Jeanne Beatty

Charlotte J. Williams
In memory of
Mrs. Freddie M. Davis

Elena Williams
In memory of
Lukey Williams

Odessia Williams
In memory of
Georgia M. Williams
Juanita Staves

Valerie Williams
In memory of
Thaddeus Faulkner

Alicia & Archie Willis
In memory of
Ann Willis
Modeane Thompson

Eddie Wilson
In honor of
Kim Bearden
In honor of
Willy Bearden

Drs. Melanie & Charles Woodall
In memory of
Jackson Woodall

Georgann Woods
In honor of
Harriet Burton

Mrs. Jamie Wukovich
In memory of
James M. Williams

Gloria Wyatt
In memory of
Melissa & Daniel Hughlett

Clara Yerger
In memory of
Clara & Gwynne Yerger II

Amanda Zorn
In honor of
Dale Schaefer

Tree Gifts

Jeralee Briggs
(Yoshino Cherry)
In memory of
Owen Briggs

Christopher Bucker & Elizabeth Pierson
(Oak)
In memory of
Deborah Juncos

Jim Cole
(Red Maple)
In memory of
Alma H. Law
Mary Alma Palmer
Elizabeth Cole

Phillip T. Crawford
(Elm)
In memory of
His Aunt and Uncle
Eleanor Phillips Crawford & Hugh F. Crawford

Carol Durdin, Kim Bearden, Courtney McCollum, & Josh Durdin
(Tulip Poplar)
In memory of
Bob Durdin

April & Carl Lewis
(Elm)

Betsy Long
(Deciduous Holly)
In memory of
Jonathan Paul Martens

Patricia Neal
(Kentucky Coffeetree)
In memory of
Rex DeLoach

Betty Nolan
(Red Maple)
In memory of
Doris Wimberly

Karen Pate
(Oak)
In memory of
Caroline Pate

The Elmwood Board of Trustees wishes to thank the Crawford-Howard Private Foundation for its generous support of educational endeavors, tours, and events at Elmwood.

We thank all our generous donors.

REMINDER

In order to keep the cemetery beautiful, Elmwood conducted a major clean-up of all flowers and decorations beginning January 15, 2026. This will be done each January.

For the full flower policy, see:
elmwoodcemetery.org/flower-policy

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tickets and more information are available at elmwoodcemetery.org/events-calendar.
Pre-registration is required for all guided tours and presentations.

Victorian Mourning Customs & Jewelry
Sunday, February 15, 2 pm till 3 pm, Lords Chapel, *$15.*

Cradle Gardening Orientation
Saturday, March 21st, 9:30 am till 10:30 pm, Lords Chapel, *free but registration is required.*

Creating Captivating Curb Appeal with Gardening Goddess Kim Halyak
Sunday, March 22nd, 2 pm till 3 pm, Lord's Chapel, *$10.*

Tree Tour of Elmwood (Walking Tour)
Saturday, March 28th, 10 am till 11:30 am, tour starts at Phillips' Cottage, *$20.*

Beware That Bouquet: the Victorian Secret Language of Flowers
Sunday, March 29th, 2 pm till 3 pm, Lords Chapel, *$20.*

Stories of Stone (Walking Tour)
Saturday, April 18th, 10 am till 11:30 am, tour starts at Phillips' Cottage, *$20.*

What a Way to Go (Walking Tour)
Saturday, May 16th, 10:00 am till 11:30 am, tour starts at Phillips' Cottage, *$20.*

Memphis Music History (Walking Tour)
Friday, June 12th, 6 pm till 7 pm, tour starts at Phillips' Cottage, *$20.*

ELMWOOD CELEBRATES AMERICA'S 250th ANNIVERSARY

In 2026, the United States turns 250, and Elmwood Cemetery is proud to take part in Tennessee's America 250th celebrations with a two-day commemoration honoring the people, stories, and ideals that shaped a young nation.

The Tennessee America 250th Celebrations at Elmwood will take place May 1–2, 2026, in partnership with the National Society of Colonial Dames Memphis Town Committee. Together, we will host two days of immersive tours, talks, and experiences that bring early American history to life among the monuments and memorials of Elmwood. Throughout the year, Elmwood will also distribute free U.S. flags and a special booklet highlighting Elmwood's connections to early US history.

Friday, May 1
10:00 am—**Stars, Stripes, & Stories Tour**, *$10 per person; veterans free.*
Begin the celebration with a guided tour exploring Elmwood's ties to America's founding era, from patriots and presidents' families to veterans, statesmen, and the symbols that unite a nation.

1:00 pm—**Author Event: R. Scott Williams, *Townmania***, *free.*
Join historian and author R. Scott Williams for a book reading and signing centered on his newest work, *Townmania*: "Memphis's founding father explores ambition, race, politics, and identity in early Tennessee, uncovering a chapter of Southern history that shaped the nation." The life of our first mayor, Marcus Winchester.

Saturday, May 2
6:00 pm—**Beneath the Banners Tour**, *$10 per person; veterans free.*
Experience Elmwood like never before during this interactive, roving tour. Guides will be stationed throughout the cemetery, inviting guests to explore at their own pace, discover historic sites, and hear powerful stories beneath the flags and memorials that honor service and sacrifice.

8:15 pm—**Cemetery Cinema: *Hamilton***, *$15 per person.*
As night falls, gather for a special outdoor screening of *Hamilton*—the filmed Broadway production featuring the original cast. Celebrate the American story through music, revolution, and legacy. Food Truck: Hot 'n Heavy Dogs

This project is supported in part by the Tennessee Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial.

AN IMMIGRANTS UNLIKELY JOURNEY BY DALE SCHAEFFER

When someone opens any of the thousands of folders Elmwood has kept on those buried here over the past 173 years, they never know what they might discover. Most are fairly routine accounts of lives quietly lived and quietly ended. Yet not uncommonly, a file is opened that causes a double, or maybe even a triple take, making you think, "you can't make up stories like this." Such was the case with the folder of Paul S. Schneider.

Paul Schneider, later known as Professor Schneider, was born on April 6th, 1844, in the Breslau region of Germany. It is not known when he came to the United States or why he came. I am sure it is a story very similar to the thousands of Germans who immigrated to the United States in the mid to late 19th Century. One can be quite sure that he never envisioned that within a few short years he would become an eyewitness to two of the most momentous events in American history: the American Civil War and the murder of Abraham Lincoln. He enlisted in the U.S. Army as a bugler and served in the Fifth U.S. Artillery from December 1st, 1862, until the end of the war. His Veterans Schedule listed him as "slightly wounded but entirely recovered."

In the spring of 1865, the war was winding down and Paul found himself stationed in Washington D.C. Along with his talent for the trumpet and other brass instruments, Paul was also recognized for his polished violin skills. He performed in touring orchestras throughout the Eastern states, including the one that performed in Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. on April 14th, 1865. Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in Ford's Theatre that night, and a bullet from Booth's gun passed near Paul's head as he sat in the orchestra section just below the stage.

Schneider moved to Memphis about 1870 and in 1871, he married Anna Buhr at the downtown Trinity Lutheran Church. The first City Directory entry came in 1874 when he was listed as a musician living at 194 Beale Street and employed at the New Memphis Theatre. During the yellow fever years of the 1870s, he was a local member of the Howard Association and gave of his services freely. From the 1880s thru the early 1890s he oversaw the music department at Christian Brothers College and was a member of the Memphis Symphony from its organization. He also performed with the Memphis Brass Band and as a freelance violinist. On October 14th, 1887, he and his band performed for President Grover Cleveland on his visit to Memphis. On May 12th, 1892, Professor Schneider was again in the papers for his role, along with the Christian Brothers College Band, in providing the music from a steamboat called the *Kate Adams* at the opening of the Frisco Bridge, the first bridge to cross the Mississippi between St. Louis and New Orleans.

Paul and Anna had six children. Their three daughters all remained in Memphis until their deaths and are interred at Elmwood with their parents. Two sons moved to St. Louis. A third son, Albert, died in 1898 at the age of 11 when he accidentally fell from his fishing boat into the Mississippi River at the base of Beale Street and was swept away.

One daughter, Clara, made a name for herself locally as an artist. A graduate of the Art Institute in Chicago, she worked at the Teachers College of Columbia University in New York City. She eventually returned to Memphis and became the founder of the first Memphis High School art department at Central High when it opened in 1911. She taught there until she retired in 1947. Clara died in 1957 at the age of 80 and is also buried with her parents.

Son William moved to St. Louis. William died in July of 1935, but for 10 years was the official starter for the Kentucky Derby. He was such a noted fixture at that race that, during his last illness, his physical condition was broadcast at intervals over the national networks during Derby Week.

The final home of the Paul Schneider family was located at 178 South Idlewild. The home is sadly no longer standing and was located on the site that is now the back portion of the Union Avenue Kroger parking lot. In this home he died of a stroke on August 8th, 1912. A funeral was held in his home. His Elmwood interment was a private service in the South Grove section of the cemetery. He would ultimately be joined there by his wife and four of his children. The events of his life took him far from Germany and brought him front and center with the American experience. His story adds to the richness that is Elmwood Cemetery.

ELMWOOD CEMETERY
Memphis at rest since 1852.

824 South Dudley Street
Memphis, Tennessee 38104
901.774.3212

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Easter is Coming

Elmwood is now taking orders for Easter lilies to be placed on your loved ones' graves in the cemetery.

Elmwood staff will place the lilies in the cemetery by Good Friday and they will be taken up the following week.

Lilies are $28.00 each. When ordering, please specify who the lily is intended to memorialize.

Orders must be placed by Fri., March 27th, 2026.

Order online at www.elmwoodcemetery.org/easter-lily

OR

to place an order with a credit or debit card over the phone call (901) 774-3212.